

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 604

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Head Coach Matt Bragga and the Tennessee Technological University baseball team upon winning the 2009 Ohio Valley Conference championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of our great athletic teams who work hard, make the necessary sacrifices, achieve success, and provide entertainment for large numbers of fans; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding 2009 Tennessee Technological University (TTU) Golden Eagle baseball team (30-22-1), which recently won the 2009 Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) tournament championship, is clearly one such team; and

WHEREAS, in perhaps the most unlikely OVC tournament championship matchup, the No. 5 seed Golden Eagles defeated No. 6 seed Jacksonville State University (JSU) 4-3 in ten innings at Brooks Stadium; the victory earned TTU its first OVC baseball tournament crown since 2001 and a spot in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament; and

WHEREAS, after both teams secured a spot in the OVC tournament with the last out of the regular season, they cruised through their brackets on their way to the championship game; it was the first OVC tournament title matchup to feature a No. 5 seed team and a No. 6 seed team in the championship game; and

WHEREAS, bringing home the winning run with one out in the top of the tenth inning, the OVC tournament's Most Valuable Player A. J. Kirby-Jones ripped a single through the left side of the field, sending Alex Henry home; and

WHEREAS, TTU starting pitcher Chason Choate led the Golden Eagles in a battle that left the teams tied 3-3 after nine innings; maintaining their focus and stretching their lead in the top of the tenth with A. J. Kirby-Jones's RBI single, the team persevered and reliever Ben

Burgess retired the JSU batters in the bottom of tenth, helping the TTU Golden Eagles finish with a dominating display of their baseball talent; and

WHEREAS, the victory was especially rewarding for Head Coach Matt Bragga, who has expertly molded the natural talent of the players into a championship caliber team; and

WHEREAS, the TTU baseball players epitomize all that is good in the ideal student-athlete; they have represented their school, community, and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the baseball field; and

WHEREAS, throughout this incredible season, the members of the 2009 TTU baseball team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talents not only made possible a successful and memorable baseball season, but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Matt Bragga and the Tennessee Technological University baseball team upon winning the Ohio Valley Conference tournament championship, applaud them for their heralded success on the baseball diamond this season, and wish them much success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.